WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM

Overview

Public safety is at the foundation of all we do. We recognize that wildfires pose a significant year-round threat to our customers, communities and our state as a whole – and we are proactively implementing programs to minimize ignition risks associated with operating our system. As part of our commitment to safety, we're continually making strategic investments and improvements to support our power grid, build resilience and increase our situational awareness to mitigate wildfire risk.

Since 2019, we've invested over $350 million in wildfire mitigation activities to help protect lives, homes and property from the threat of wildfire under our Wildfire Mitigation Program. This program includes:

- System hardening initiatives and inspections to strengthen equipment, reduce the chance of causing ignitions and increase protection in extreme weather conditions.

- Operational and situational awareness efforts, which increase the sensitivity of our electric system protection during high fire threat conditions to reduce the risk of potential ignitions.

- Community and stakeholder outreach campaigns which strive to educate and communicate with impacted stakeholders, inform communities about our wildfire mitigation work and solicit feedback about needs specific to their communities.

Our initiatives

As climate conditions have changed throughout the west, the overall risk, frequency and severity of wildfires has increased. The traditional idea of a fire "season" has evolved into a year-long battle against rapidly changing and more extreme weather conditions that can generate larger, more intense and faster moving wildfires. The investments we're making in our power grid help minimize the risk of equipment-caused wildfires. Some of our recent investments include:

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) and LiDAR-equipped Helicopter Inspections
We have implemented UAS (commonly referred to as 'drones') for inspecting equipment and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)-equipped helicopter inspections along electric lines within Wildfire Risk Zones. LiDAR sensing creates 3D maps of our equipment and the surrounding terrain and provides data on the clearances to nearby vegetation. This helps us make informed decisions about where we might consider hardening equipment like power poles and other infrastructure and increasing vegetation to wire clearances to reduce the likelihood of equipment being damaged by trees during extreme weather conditions.

Wildfire Safety Settings
Our Wildfire Safety Settings program is one tool used to operate our system more conservatively in areas with increased wildfire risk. In this program, the sensitivity settings on powerline protection equipment are increased when current weather conditions create an elevated risk of wildfire. Protection equipment interrupts the flow of energy to a line segment when it detects an issue, such as a tree branch contacting a power line or power lines galloping due to high wind. With enhanced

powerline safety settings, the line will remain de-energized until crews can patrol the area and ensure it's safe to restore service. This approach helps keep our communities safe, but some customers may experience more frequent or longer outages.

Early Wildfire Detection Cameras

We are currently piloting and evaluating the functionality of new AI (artificial intelligence) wildfire cameras and considering how best to expand their use. This technology uses panoramic, 360-degree camera networks enhanced with AI to detect the presence of smoke. AI algorithms, coupled with 24/7 human monitoring, provide near real-time awareness and alerts of potential wildfires and enable notifications to fire protection agencies and first responders. While this is an emerging technology, we're looking for innovative ways to partner with communities and other utilities to leverage the full benefits of a camera network to detect wildfires at the earliest stage possible.

Risk Modeling

To prioritize and target wildfire mitigation efforts, we're continually improving our wildfire risk modeling and evaluating new information to further refine Wildfire Risk Zones. Our latest wildfire risk modeling software uses advanced prediction algorithms and dynamic weather data to achieve enhanced wildfire risk identification and consequence estimates. Each day, the software evaluates current and forecasted weather conditions, detailed wind speed/direction, moisture levels and ground fuel conditions to predict where a wildfire might spread if an ignition were to occur. This risk modeling and simulation also provides valuable insight on the potential consequences of wildfires as fire weather conditions dynamically change.

Community outreach

Our team meets with numerous stakeholders and communities across Colorado – especially those in designated Wildfire Risk Zones – to connect with members of the public, local government and first responders to understand the unique needs of each community.

Safety

Never approach a downed power line. Leave the area and report it immediately by calling **800-895-1999** and **911**.

After a 911 call, emergency services are often the first to arrive at the scene. We offer first responders safety guidance and training to respond to emergencies.

While it's impossible to eliminate every risk, we continue to maintain and upgrade our system with new technologies and collaborate with other utilities to protect people and property.

Learn more
For more information on the Wildfire Mitigation Program, visit XcelEnergyWildfireMitigation.com. For questions, call 833-352-0087 or email info@XcelEnergyWildfireMitigation.com.

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